



Hybrid Diné College Strategic Design Town Hall Meeting with Phoenix Indian Center

Thursday, April 21, 2022 | Phoenix Indian School Visitor's Center | 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Delivery Medium Details: Zoom webinar and in-person

Zoom Details:

Webinar ID: 939 9563 2356

Passcode: 911366

Telephone: 1 253 215 8782

Attendees (In-person)	Winifred Jumbo, Dr. Roessel, Francetta Begaye, Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, Trevor Foster, Dr. Geraldine Garrity, Elena Selestewa, Alvin Bitsle, Mike Bahe, M. Yazzie, Demetria Shepherd, Micheon Gorman, Yolonda A. Yazzie, Dylan R. Begay, Eli K. Begay, Plint M. Begay, Graham Begay, Ty Jones, Nicole Duncan, Troy Begay, Jon Thompson, Lynnnann Yazzie, Eric Basonger, Jimela Hough-Dee, Jayne Deschee, Yavette Aauguh, Isaiah Thomas, Roxanne Wilson, Bob Roessel and Katelyn Roessel.
Attendees (Virtual)	Bo Lewis, Marie Nez, Theresa Hatathlie-Delmar, Blacksheep Bahe, Corrina Pino, Leona John, Marisa Sosa, and Seana Mitchell.

Agenda Item		Person Responsible	Description
1.	Invocation	Trevor Foster, Phoenix Indian Center	Prayer was offered by our alumni of Diné College.
2.	Welcome	Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.	Welcomed attendees to Strategic Design Town Hall Meeting.
3.	Introduction of Purpose, Intent, and Details of Strategic Design	Winifred Jumbo, Director of Dual Credit Enrollment Management	Presentation was shared with community outlining purpose, intent, processes, timeline, internal and external stakeholder committee's information, and website details for the strategic design.
4.	Introduction of Strategic Themes	Dr. Charles Roessel, College President	Presentation was shared with community of Phoenix outlining the 6 Strategic Themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Growth • Accessibility • Campus Health and Wellness

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic Integration • Culture/Environment • Facilities
5.	Purpose and Guidelines of Community Feedback	Winifred Jumbo, Director of Dual Credit Enrollment Management	The purpose of the community feedback was explained to audience.
6.	Community Feedback Conversation	All.	Diné College leaders listened to community feedback.

Person	Comments
Lynnann Yazzie, Native American Specialist, Native American Education Program, Phoenix Union High School District	<p>The College should consider satellite campuses in Phoenix area and summer programming for middle and high school students to experience the campus in Tsaile. In addition, the College should advertise through social media to grab the student's attention. Create a guest faculty series, which offer 4 years of Navajo language and government for high school students. We're looking to create concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities for our high school students. Resource fairs in urban areas could benefit our families because it's difficult for families to go home to the reservation from Monday to Friday. She works closely with the Arizona Indian Education Association to explore opportunities available for students and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have summer programming? • Would you consider virtual classes? <p>Sometimes they can't get 22 language teachers, consider virtual remote classes. There are about 400 Navajo students within Phoenix Union High School District.</p>
Jolyana Begay-Kroupa, Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.	<p>She has been in valley for a long time. She is a mother to 3 boys and their upbringing is not the same as hers. She took courses at Diné College to prepare for the Miss Navajo Nation pageant. Her boys don't receive the same opportunities she had as a young girl. She had wonderful opportunities while growing up and hopes her sons will have those same intergenerational opportunities. There are thousands of Navajos in the valley, she would guess about 27,000 or more. Many never get the chance to go back to the reservation to enroll as an official member of the tribe. Diné College has master teachers of the Navajo language and they should bring those experts to the Phoenix area to teach our community. During spring, winter and summer breaks</p>

	<p>the College could host intergenerational sessions, so our urban students can interact with their culture and environment of the Navajo reservation. Phoenix Indian Center receives funding from the Navajo Nation and they would like to work with our College because we are the best at addressing Navajo language preservation. Immersion camps could be created during winter, spring and summer breaks. The College should explore a campus for Phoenix because not all high schools offer Navajo language and government courses for high school students. Those courses could be taken as dual credit courses for students who would like to pursue the Chief Manuelito Scholarship. They recently received a grant to archive cultural teaching sessions through recordings. They would like to partner with Diné College, because the institution could be the hub for storing those recorded sessions. Our youth have a lot of interest in advocacy issues, so we hope to create an opportunity to have Navajo leaders interact with our young leaders. We would like to develop some apprenticeships for our youth to learn more about leadership roles and responsibilities with Navajo society. She gets a lot of questions about summer Navajo language immersions programs, as well as, the NCAP Program. Those particular programs are based mainly in Tsaile, AZ, but they could bus the students during their breaks, because many students don't get an opportunity to go back up to the Navajo reservation.</p>
Mike Bahe, A.I.M.	<p>He is from Tsaile, AZ and it's nice to see the planning. The College was an economic boost during the NCC era. Growth is good and it's very important to include the community. The College is not reaching out to community, there were issues pertaining to the isolation of the College. The community is left out. About a mile from Diné College there are burials. 22 to 23 medicine men are from the Tsaile area. The College built fences without asking the community, we need to talk about that and make it right. It's nice that we are talking and it will be good to move forward in a good way. He represents A.I.M. and they work with the 22 tribes of Arizona.</p>
Yolonda Yazzie, Parent	<p>Thanks for hosting event, it was a nice surprise. She has taken Navajo 101 with Diné College, she grew up in St. Johns, AZ. She spent 7 years at Diné College taking courses. She likes the Land Grant Office. She would like to see more opportunities for K to 12 students. She has older children who are students at Diné College with Apple laptops, but their laptops won't connect to Diné College's homepage. Her daughters were pushed around to various departments to address and resolve the issue. They can't get it fixed. She wants her daughters to choose Diné College, but unaddressed barriers make it hard. How will the College play a role in creating a school for the blind and deaf on the Navajo Nation? It's heartbreaking to see the lack of opportunities for students with disabilities. Create a pen pal system for urban children with Diné College students, it would be a plan for youth to stay connected to our Navajo life. She would</p>

	like some help in understanding the Navajo matrilineal society. Thanks for the blue mush. Maybe explore programs to provide incentives for children from Bookstore.
Jayme Deschee, ASU	She is employed with ASU. She would like to state that students who come to ASU from Diné College are very grounded in who they are as a Navajo person. She is an alumnus of Diné College. She has four children and she would like to see access to Native books from the College, so her children can use them as a resource. She has her mother teaching her children kinship, but that may not be the case for all. Immersion schools are necessary. If Diné College could think of ways for Navajos to return home, that would be interesting.
Marlita Yazzie, Phoenix Indian School Visitor's Center	Her passion is with curriculum development on boarding school history and the impact it has on today's society. About 80% of the people who come through the center don't know about the boarding school era. Epigenetics, the damage to our genes has impacted indigenous people. We feel bad for our relatives who live in the streets, but if we understand historical trauma and the experiences they face, we understand their hurt at the genetic level. This understanding is missing in our education at all levels. We should teach about it early enough and work with schools to make it part of the curriculum. We need to understand why we have social detriments in our society. Epigenetics is very important to understand and we need to be empathic to people of all levels. Let's start doing something to help our people. You hear about Diné College all over from North Dakota to Washington, D.C. We have the creditability to teach about boarding school history and to make a real change in society.
Micheon Gorman, Phoenix Indian Center	She is a Prevention Program Manager. She is happy to be here attending the town hall meeting. She connects to all the comments made so far. She works with communities at all levels and there are thousands of Navajo people relocating to Phoenix, AZ. They are trying to foster leadership and curriculum for nonprofit leadership development. She recommends to develop an academic program with critical thought processes to initiate change for our Native people. We root ourselves in culture, therefore culture is prevention. Leadership development is very important, children need language support. Having intergenerational language learning is a need. She would like to attend a Navajo language class with her children. There is a disconnection and miscommunication between parents and children to build a well-rounded home. Thank you to everyone and thank you to Diné College for hosting.
Ty Jones, Diné College	He works remotely for our College, he's been employed with our organization for 2 years. He grew up in an urban setting. He's happy the College is moving forward with the new strategic design. Because of the pandemic there was a huge disconnect in learning and it was very difficult to move forward with online learning, but everyone stepped up to the plate to make distance

	education happen. They are working on digital transformation within the IT Department at the College. It is a great time to reflect on the seven generations. Online learning is the new trend. He is happy to see Diné College staff in-person.
Demetria Shepard, Paradise Valley Community College/Paradise Valley School District	She works with Paradise Valley Community College and Paradise Valley School District. She wants to see representation for all Native people. Please consider including high school embedded advisors in your conversations for high school students. She is a College Navigation Specialist guiding students to get into college. She is a first-generation college student and she tries her best to carry forward her Navajo language and culture. Paradise Valley Community College is seeking a new President. Everyone needs to be heard, so we need to be inclusive of all students. She continues to work for the success of all students by making sure students are on the right path to understanding college expectations.
Leona John via Zoom chat box	"I saw an advertisement for an Arizona College, and the ad stated free tuition for Native Americans. While the Diné College tuition continues to rise. This might be more a concern. Thank you for the information on Phx Indian Center and the collaboration with Diné College. I am certain it will benefit our people who made permanent residency in the Phx area. The college I was referring to is in Sells, Arizona, free tuition for Native Americans and I am interested in the comparison, since my daughter is enrolled at Diné College, and I am an Alumni of Diné College. Diné College is a wonderful place to learn, have a supportive advisor to guide me through my process at Diné College. Thank you again."
Blacksheep Bahe via Zoom chat box	"Yaateeeh, I believe Diné College has printing press capabilities, or they do have one but not utilized, printing books in Navajo would be a great accomplishment."

Survey Feedback

(All comments were submitted anonymously)

What recommendations do you have to improve Diné College? (Academics, Student Affairs, etc.)

"DEI (being inclusive w/ students and people in general of a places). Embed advisors for high school students."

"Access to dorms for urban students. Navajo language/government classes offered virtually."

"Summer programs. Guest faculty. Advertising. Communicate with Native Ed. Coordinators. Dual enrollment and partnerships."

"The Diné College is in good hands. It seems it's heading in the right direction."

"Keep doing what you are doing!"

"Free tuition."

"Remote learning. Satellite campus."

"Reaching out to other resources. Native Health, Native Connections and simple/small events."

"Dual enrollment/accreditation for high school Navajo language and government classes. Immersion campus recruiting urban students (intro to campus). Spring break/winter/summer intergeneration opportunity. Campus at Phx. Archiving/partnership."

"Academics through more cultural teachings for children and adults, which are web based. Student Affairs needs to address access to College website, her daughter went a whole semester without access to the College website. Look into deaf and blind schools for the Navajo Nation. Provide more education on uranium. I would like to return to the Navajo reservation. How can we move back when there are limited housing and jobs. Get a basketball team. Excellent food! Thank you!"